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Editorial

Maintain the initiative, advance the armed revolution

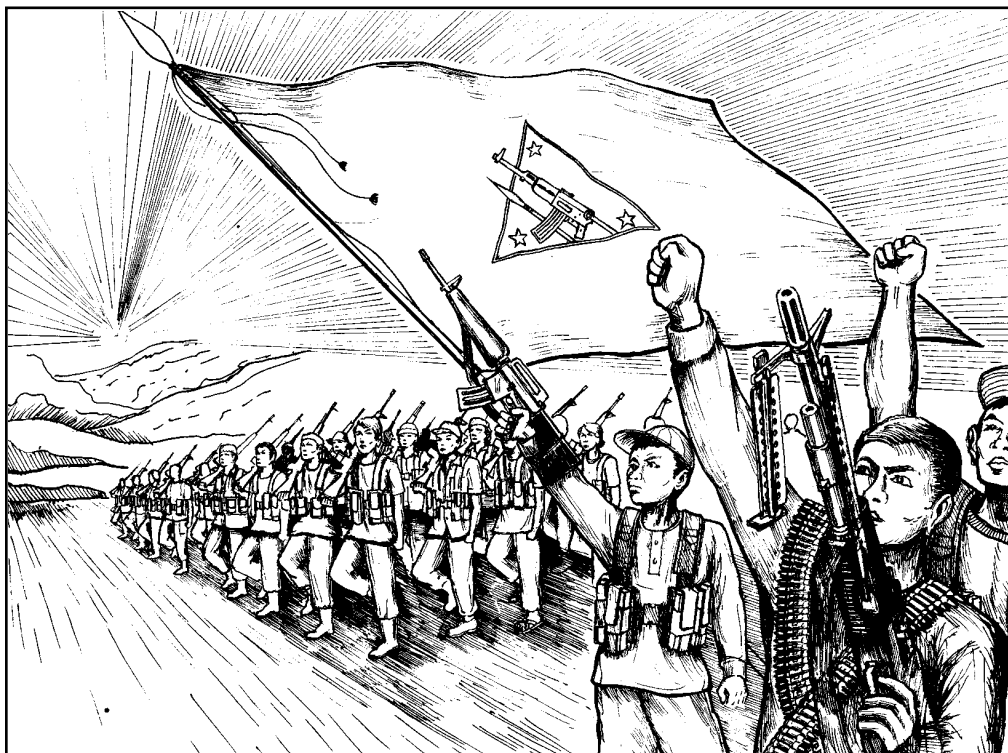
The Filipino people celebrate the overall invigoration of tactical offensives by the New People's Army (NPA). The higher level of momentum and capability displayed by the armed revolution especially in the last three months counts among the revolutionary movement's most outstanding and major victories this year.

The revolutionary armed struggle's remarkable advance in the past months is a result of the NPA commands' firm response to the Communist Party of the Philippines' (CPP) call to seize the initiative and launch tactical offensives. Its objectives are to project revolutionary armed struggle alongside the advance of the militant open mass movement to oust the US-Arroyo regime and advance people's war to the next higher substage of the strategic defensive.

Based on the capacity of the NPA's various commands, they can launch numerous small and big tactical offensives that inflict significant damage on fascist armed troops and other bad elements, especially diehard fascists and those guilty of grave crimes against the people. On the whole, large numbers of

the AFP's armed troops have been wiped out in these tactical offensives. Scores of high-powered weapons have been seized to arm Red fighters and further strengthen the people's army.

The tactical offensives being launched belie the AFP-PNP propaganda line that strains to portray the NPA as a spent force. The armed struggle's vigor, the people's army's offensive posture and the victories that have been reaped in these tactical offensives raise the Red fighters and the Filipino people's fight-



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highlights...***

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in three months**

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ing spirit, militancy and capacity for armed struggle.

The victorious tactical offensives are the revolutionary armed forces' contribution to the Filipino people's struggle against the puppet, plunderous, deceptive, brutal and rotten US-Arroyo regime. By delivering multiple blows on its main pillars, the NPA inflicts intense damage on the detested US-Arroyo regime. These tactical offensives act in concert with the oust Arroyo mass campaign and are in response to the Filipino people's urgent demand to punish the US-Arroyo regime for its heinous crimes against the nation. They bring revolutionary armed struggle to the fore and inspire the people to tread the path of armed resistance.

The NPA's tactical offensives have disrupted and damaged the US-Arroyo regime's campaign of repression in revolutionary areas in the countryside. Consequently, NPA units have achieved greater leeway to expand and consolidate guerrilla fronts, zones and bases and advance different areas of revolutionary work in the countryside.

Aside from refuting the enemy's claims of success in its repression campaign, the damage sustained by enemy forces in the face of the NPA's successive and outstanding victorious tactical offensives heighten demoralization, division and restiveness within the AFP-PNP, especially among junior officers and the rank and file. This is also one factor behind the growing number of groups of discontented and enlightened officers and soldiers of the AFP-PNP that have clandestinely organized themselves against a commander-in-chief widely considered illegitimate. As part of the revolutionary forces' efforts to push the disintegration of the state's armed forces, the Party, the NPA and other revolutionary forces nationwide have already actively established links and alliances, raised the consciousness of, and conducted organizing work in, various sections of the reactionary army.

The surge of tactical offensives in the last three months has provided the NPA in many regions and guerrilla fronts with a wealth of experience and valuable lessons in developing coordinated guerrilla

warfare both in terms of drawing up general plans and implementing them at the operational level and during actual combat.


In launching tactical offensives, the NPA is exerting all efforts to overcome the previous trend towards military conservatism.

Out of the many lessons drawn from these experiences, some of the most important are as follows: For the NPA to systematically seize the initiative in warfare, there should be broad planning of the people's army's coordinated operations from the regional level up to the front level. This way, the NPA is able to blunt and demolish the enemy's initiative and frustrate its plans at these levels.

For this purpose, it is important to study the enemy's concepts and overall plans and how these are particularized at the regional down to the guerrilla front level so that even before the enemy is able to make any headway, we are already in the process of analyzing his moves and preparing for them. Through continuous intelligence work, we can discern the enemy's vulnerabilities and movements and discover where the NPA can more easily operate and take advantage of the enemy's weak points.

The leading Party committees and NPA commands at the regional down to the front level must draw up plans to destroy the enemy's campaign in their respective areas of responsibility so that NPA units can more freely conduct expansion and consolidation work within guerrilla fronts.

Barring other important considerations, we must, as much as possible, deal serious blows on the enemy's forces before or even as they begin to concentrate on guerrilla forces, fronts, zones or bases. This way, we muddle their plans in particular areas and the NPA main-

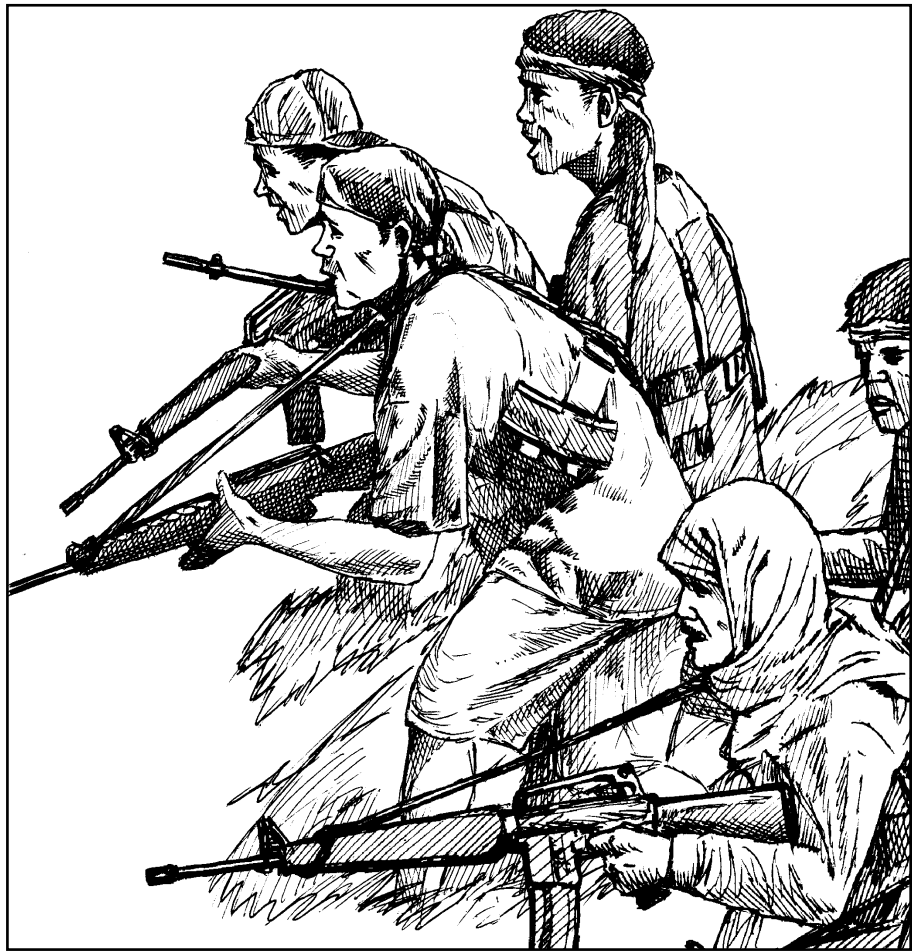
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tains the overall initiative.

It is vitally important for the Party committees from the region down to the guerrilla fronts to firmly coordinate their politico-military and even their organizational plans. It is important that military plans are supported and political and organizational plans are attended to, including among others, plans to expand and consolidate the mass base in the countryside, advance agrarian revolution and other mass movements, advance revolutionary work in the town centers, advance education and propaganda work, establish and expand the revolutionary united front and strengthen the Party and the people's army. Likewise, it is important that military plans also support and strengthen political and organizational plans.

In consciously attempting, preparing for and launching not just one tactical offensive at a time but more encompassing and coordinated politico-military plans, the NPA avoids becoming passive in the face of massive and continuous enemy operations and military campaigns. In seizing the initiative on a broad scale, the NPA denies the AFP the space and the opportunity to assert its dominance completely and wreak havoc, even as the people's army maintains and acquires even greater freedom to operate within guerrilla fronts, zones and bases.

On the whole, units of the people's army have been able to raise their capacity to launch tactical offensives, coordinate NPA operations on different levels and all-sidedly advance armed struggle, agrarian revolution, the mass movement, revolutionary base building and united front building, with the aid of the NPA's strongly surging tactical offensives these past three months. AB



Victorious tactical offensives and other military actions

The New People's Army launched over 195 tactical offensives and other military actions in different parts of the country from September 13 to December 16 this year, according to initial reports. The relative increase in tactical offensives is the result of the NPA's firm compliance with the Communist Party of the Philippines' (CPP) call this September to seize the initiative and launch tactical offensives.

The Red army added at least 108 high-powered rifles and pistols to its arsenal due to the military actions launched in this period, in addition to seizing thousands of rounds of ammunition and other military equipment.

More than 230 military, police and armed enemy operatives were likewise killed in this period and over 144 wounded. Five comrades heroically offered their lives in battle.

The offensives consisted of at least 18 raids and at least 17 am-



bushes against the enemy. There were also at least 70 harassment operations against the military and police, ten sniping operations, seven arms seizures, and three disarming operations.

Among the most prominent of these offensives was a victorious ambush carried out by the Benito Tesorio Command in Jones, Isabela on December 15 where 20 soldiers were wiped out and many more were wounded. Also outstanding was an ambush carried out against the 45th IB in Echague, Isabela on September 22 in which 27 soldiers were killed, and another ambush on a composite force composed of elements of the 1st Scout Ranger Battalion and the 47th IB in Calinog, Iloilo on November 19 in which ten soldiers were killed and 25 were wounded.

The NPA also launched a successful raid on the 78th IB detachment in Tuburan, Cebu on October 15, killing three soldiers and seizing four M16s and four M14s; and on a PNP detachment in Bato, Camarines Sur on December 5, killing three policemen, wounding two others and confiscating five M16s, an M14 and three pistols. Likewise, raids were also superbly executed without firing a single shot on November 11 on a police station in Quezon, Bukidnon in which six M16s and five pistols of various caliber were seized, and on November 8 on a detachment of the 110th PMG-PNP in Tagum City in which three M16s, an M14, a shotgun and two pistols were confiscated.

Initial reports received by *Ang Bayan* showed that the most number of arms seizures took place in Southern Mindanao (29), North-Central Mindanao (28), North-Eastern Mindanao (21) and Central Visayas (16).

Meanwhile, from January to August, *AB* recorded 43 tactical offensives and other military actions. Of these, 16 were ambushes, nine were raids, six were harassment operations, two were snipings, two were disarmings and three were punitive operations, among others. Ninety-seven firearms were seized from the tactical offensives in that period. At least 154 enemy soldiers, policemen and paramilitary personnel were killed and at least 84 were wounded. Two of the most outstanding offensives were a raid on June 3 in Tubo, Abra in which 30 high-powered firearms were confiscated and three soldiers and four CAFGU elements were wounded; and another raid on the PNP station in Magpet, North Cotabato

on June 26 in which 24 firearms were seized without firing a single shot.

The NPA has likewise managed to seize the initiative and win even battles that start out to be defensive in nature. This year, *AB* recorded four battles that were defensive at the onset but where the NPA outmaneuvered the enemy, seizing two firearms, killing ten soldiers and wounding seven others.

Even planned ambushes by the enemy against Red fighters became NPA offensives. On November 27, Red guerrillas launched a counter-ambush against a platoon of the 21st IB Bravo Coy in Ab-abaan, Balbalan, Kalinga, killing three soldiers. AB

NPA wipes out 24 military troops in Cagayan Valley

AT least 23 soldiers of the 45th IB and 51st Reconnaissance Coy were wiped out in successive attacks by guerrillas under the NPA Benito Tesorio Command in the town of Jones, Isabela on December 15.

Three soldiers were first killed when Red fighters harassed the Philippine Army camp in Barangay Linumot, Jones.

In an attempt to regain the initiative, joint forces of the two military units launched "hot pursuit operations" against the NPA. But this ended in failure when they were ambushed by the NPA in Barangay Sta. Isabela. Approximately 20 enemy troops were killed and many more were wounded.

That same day, Red fighters also harassed the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) detachment in Barangay San Jose, San Mariano, Isabela.

In Cagayan, a soldier was killed and an undetermined number wounded when an NPA team launched a sniping operation against an 18-strong Reengineered Special Operations Team (RSOT) of the 17th IB stationed in Barangay Conig, Gattaran.

An NPA unit likewise disrupted normal operations inside the 17th IB camp in Barangay Ibulo, Baggao on November 24 by sniping at the soldiers. Prior to this, guerrillas burned down the camp of the detested 17th IB in Barangay Bural, Rizal town. AB



NPA seizes 10 firearms from despotic landlord in Leyte

RED fighters of the NPA Mt. Amandewin Command in Leyte seized ten firearms of various caliber when they disarmed George Aznar, a despotic landlord, in Tabango town on the night of December 14. Among the weapons confiscated from Aznar and his four goons were two M16s, a carbine, an Ingram machine pistol, a shotgun, a 9 mm pistol, three .38 caliber revolvers, a .22 caliber rifle and 902 rounds of ammunition of various caliber. Three VHF radios and two cellphones were also confiscated.

The operation served as a warning to Aznar. The despotic big landlord owns over 2,000 hectares of coconut lands encompassing the barrios of Catmon, Manlawaan, Tugas and Poblacion Tabango.

2 Philippine Army officers killed in North Cotabato ambush

A major and a lieutenant were among three soldiers killed when a command-detonated land mine exploded under their six-wheeler vehicle on December 15 in Tulunan town, North Cotabato. Up to 20 soldiers were also wounded.

The officers were identified as Major Ledo, Executive Office (Ex-O) of the 39th IB and Lieutenant Sulas of the 54th Engineering Brigade. They were aboard a six-wheeler truck that was trailing soldiers who were on foot. The truck drove over the land mine when it avoided a large rock blocking the road.

Elsewhere in the country...

In Camarines Norte. NPA partisans attacked a military safe-house on the night of December 16 and killed Sgt. Mario Jakosalem, an intelligence operative of the 31st Infantry Battalion in Barangay Poblacion, Capalonga.

In Bulacan. Two elements of the PNP Special Action Force and a soldier under the Philippine Army's 23rd Reconnaissance Coy were killed in an encounter with NPA guerrillas in San Jose Del Monte City on December 11. The joint police and military force was allegedly on a training mission when it entered Sitio Ilas, Barangay San Isidro where Red fighters greeted them with a hail of gunfire.

In Tagum City. Four soldiers of the Philippine Army were wiped out in an ambush by NPA partisans in Tagum City on December 20 as their vehicle passed through the city's main marketplace. The casualties belonged to the 404th Infantry Brigade's Operational Control Unit.

No ceasefire in the face of the US-Arroyo regime's fascist attacks

THE Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA) see no reason to declare a ceasefire this coming Christmas and New Year.

The announcement comes in the face of unrelenting attacks on unarmed civilians by the US-Arroyo regime's military forces and other armed minions and its perversion of the peace negotiations.

The no ceasefire declaration this year is in response to the Filipino people's urgent and pervasive demand for the NPA to further inflict blows on the much-detested US-Arroyo regime and push for its collapse. The CPP likened the present situation to the eve of the Estrada regime's ouster.

The US-Arroyo regime's killing of activists and leaders of democratic organizations continues to date. With the murder of four more victims in Central Luzon on December 16, up to 110 activists have been killed by the US-Arroyo regime in the last ten months. Military operations that wreak havoc on, and are abusive of, the masses likewise continue without letup in various parts of the country.

The AFP leadership claims that it would comply should the government declare a unilateral ceasefire. The military, however, has never ceased its operations despite such unilateral ceasefire declarations. In fact, it makes no difference to the AFP whether a ceasefire has been declared or not. **AB**

Garci's tales grow taller

Former COMELEC Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano said nothing truthful or new in his long-awaited appearances before congress on December 6 and 13. He lied and repeatedly refused to answer questions about widespread cheating in the last elections.

Garcillano blatantly tried to cover up the truth. He admitted to talking only occasionally to Gloria Arroyo and claimed that they never talked about committing electoral fraud. In fact, Arroyo had called him 15 times and all they talked about was cheating—all of which was caught on tape.

Garcillano also claimed that he never left the country despite documents from the Singaporean government showing that he arrived in the island country on July 14 on a Subic Air Learjet and flew the following day to London. When Congress asked for his passport, he produced it after more than a week, but only after all indications of his entry to and exit from Singapore had been expunged. Sen. Panfilo Lacson exposed the fact that Garcillano's passport had been doctored by PNP Sr. Supt. and CIDG-NCR Director Asher Dolina.

Just as he had threatened, Garcillano released a list of candidates, mostly from the opposition, who supposedly called or paid him a visit during the 2004 elections. Those named denied his allegations. Some denied talking to him, others denied even

knowing Garcillano, and still others denied asking favors from him.

Garcillano had a two-fold purpose for his exposés: to insinuate that the opposition was also involved in the dirty elections, or in the event that the oppositionists deny any ill intent in having called up Garcillano, to support Gloria Arroyo's rationalization that her calls to Garcillano had nothing to do with electoral fraud.

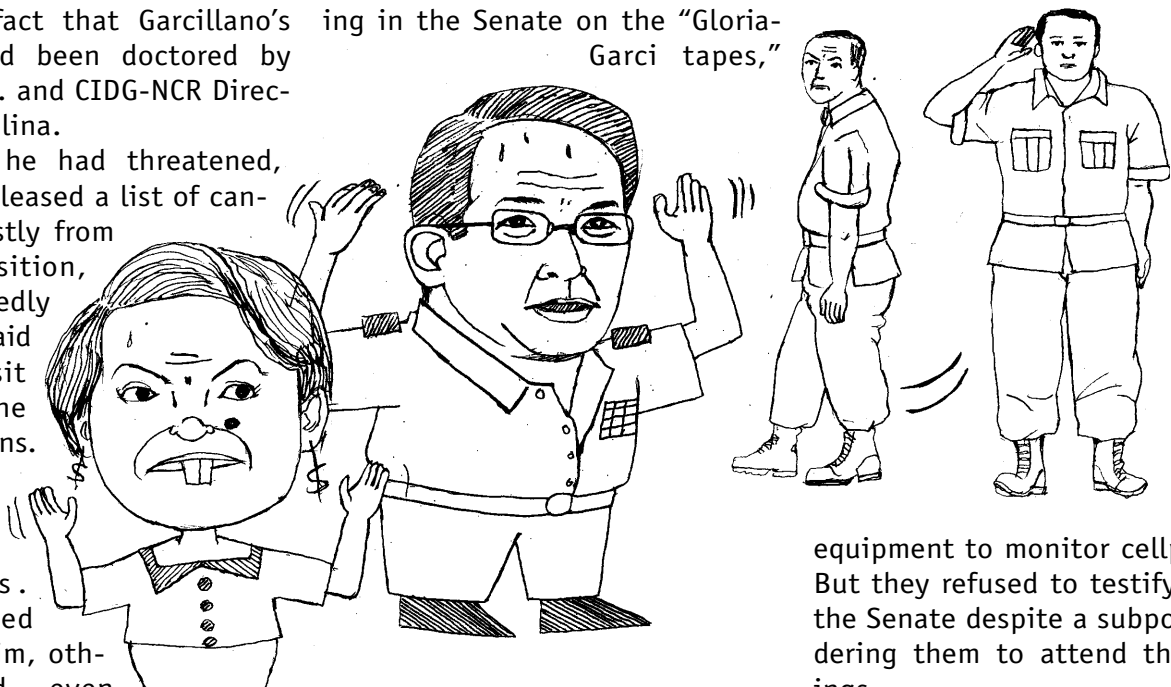
In appearing and testifying before congress instead of closing the issue on Arroyo's involvement in electoral fraud, Garcillano merely succeeded in confirming the widespread belief that Arroyo conspired to manipulate the results of the previous elections.

Meanwhile, in a similar hearing in the Senate on the "Gloria-Garci tapes,"

Marietta Santos, a live-in partner of Sgt. Vidal Doble, one of the ISAFP (Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines) personnel who wiretapped Garcillano and Arroyo, willingly came forward to testify. Santos said Doble allowed her inside the "Blue Room" where the ISAFP had equipment to conduct cellphone surveillance. She named the team leader and other ISAFP elements who formed part of Doble's group.

Doble had confided to Santos that they were, among others, eavesdropping on conversations between Garcillano and Gloria Arroyo. Santos added that Doble willingly sold the "Gloria-Garci" tapes to former National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Deputy Director Samuel Ong, contrary to the Arroyo regime's accusation that Ong had forcibly detained Doble to coerce him into selling the tapes. It was Ong who admitted in June that he had all the tapes of Garcillano's conversations.

ISAFP officials feverishly denied any involvement in wiretapping and claimed that they did not have the



equipment to monitor cellphones. But they refused to testify before the Senate despite a subpoena ordering them to attend the hearings.

Growing rifts within the military

The specter of another military uprising loomed anew when unusual troop movements took place in Metro Manila on December 11. Although Malacañang denied that there were threats of a coup d'état, the entire AFP and PNP were put on alert in Metro Manila, and mobile checkpoints were set up in city centers to tightly monitor the movements of both soldiers and the general populace. Four junior officers were arrested and interrogated. A general and four colonels, including two PNP officers were alleged to have been involved in a coup attempt on December 12.

Before this, at daybreak of December 6, bullets rained on the Lourdes Tuason-Arroyo (LTA) Building, an establishment owned by the Arroyo family in Makati City. The LTA houses a law office derisively called "The Firm." Headed by Mike Arroyo, it employs "operators" who work for the Arroyo family in arranging various corrupt and fraudulent deals.

Just a few hours later, a weak explosive was detonated in front of the house of Rep. Ronaldo Puno, a known operator of Mike Arroyo. Another small explosion hit a car owned by former COMELEC official Roque Bello. The car was parked in front of the Bello-owned Ernest Printing Press in Caloocan. And still another small bomb exploded in front of the Rounce Printing Press in Parañaque. Both establishments were reported to have been responsible for printing the excess electoral return forms Arroyo used to cheat in the elections.

The LTA shooting was claimed by the Enlightened Warriors, a group of soldiers that declared its readiness to topple Arroyo. In a later statement, a certain Miguel

Arroyo receives failing marks abroad

The Arroyo regime is a dismal failure even in the eyes of other people worldwide. In a survey dubbed "Freedom in the World" released December 19, the Philippines under the Arroyo regime fell to the category of "partially free" from the previous category of "free." The survey was conducted by Freedom House, a group of human rights lawyers.

The Philippines is among the lowest-ranked countries in the category "partially free," together with Afghanistan, Singapore and Thailand. Of all these countries, it was the Philippines that suffered the most rapid decline, mainly due to controversies on electoral fraud in last year's polls, corruption and suppression of the opposition and other dissenters.

Meanwhile, a survey by the World Economic Forum has revealed that Gloria Arroyo's leadership enjoys the lowest level of public trust of all of the countries surveyed.

Alonzo also said that their handiwork served as a warning to all "liars, cheaters and thieves." He said that the attacks were symbolic of the widespread disgust and anger of soldiers within the AFP against the illegitimate and corrupt Arroyo regime.

Meanwhile, on December 14, Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon, a key leader of the Magdalo group escaped from detention. In the statement he left behind, Faeldon said that Arroyo herself has confirmed the correctness of their cause when they rose up in July 2003. He said he escaped to join the fight to overthrow the Arroyo government and support the transition government that would be set up. Faeldon's escape showed that the Magdalo group on the whole has maintained its fighting stance despite the Arroyo regime's success in buying off and coopting certain individuals among its ranks.

Cracks within the Arroyo camp

Widespread criticism greeted the transitory provisions drafted by the Constitutional Commission

(ConCom), a group Arroyo formed to present draft amendments to the charter. Most critics were angered at ConCom proposals to scrap elections in 2007 and automatically grant all elected government officials from the president down to barangay officers three more years in power. Incumbent congressmen and senators would likewise automatically sit as members of the newly formed parliament.

Many people also assailed provisions granting Arroyo, in her capacity as president, the power to dominate whoever would be elected prime minister.

Sen. Franklin Drilon called the Concom's report "blatant bribery" aimed at getting the support of incumbent politicians in exchange for the prospect of having their terms extended till 2010.

Aside from reaping intense criticism from various sectors of the population and from the opposition, the ConCom recommendation has resulted in even bigger cracks within the Arroyo camp. Even some pro-Arroyo politicians were not able to stomach such

blatant maneuvers. Aside from Sens. Franklin Drilon and Francis Pangilinan of the Liberal Party, Arroyo's partymates like Sens. Joker Arroyo, Ralph Recto and Richard Gordon have criticized the recommendation, even if their terms at the Senate were due to end in 2007.

Even within the ConCom, whose 50 members were chosen by both Arroyo and former President Fidel Ramos, there was dispute over the transitory provisions. Twenty Concom members opposed the provisions, most of them Ramos appointees. Ramos has long been pushing for a shift to a parliamentary form of government by 2007 and for Arroyo to cut short her term by then. Ramos is in a rush to replace Arroyo in power, for fear that the opposition, progressive organizations and military rebel groups might beat him to it.

The ConCom-recommended transitory provisions were a slap in the face for both Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia, the two Lakas-CMD leaders who happen to be Arroyo's closest co-conspirators in pushing for charter change. Malacañang has long been preparing for an exodus of Lakas-CMD members towards Arroyo's party KAMPI, which is now led by Rep. Ronaldo Puno. It has likewise been laying the ground for replacing de Venecia with Rep. Prospero Pichay as House Speaker. Both moves are meant to strip Ramos and de Venecia of their base of support.

These Malacañang maneuvers have spurred open acts of defiance against Arroyo by persons closely identified with Ramos. On December 14, retired general and former Ramos official Fortunato Abat, together with others close to Ramos declared the establishment of a "transitional government," an announcement Arroyo greeted harshly. Two days after the "transitional government" was declared, Arroyo ordered the arrest of Abat, former Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez, former Ambassador Roy Señeres and Atty. Charlie Serapio, charging them with "inciting to sedition."

Abat and company's actions are camouflage for Ramos' clandestine preparations for more violent means to seize power should Arroyo renege on her promise to him and de Venecia to resign in 2007 in exchange for charter change. The Ramos-Arroyo rift continues to intensify and will likely lead to an open break in the near future.

AB



A conference to combat malaria

Medics of revolutionary mass organizations and the New People's Army (NPA) held a conference June 2005 aimed at eradicating malaria, proving the revolutionary movement's serious effort to address the health problems of the Filipino people.

The Conference to Combat Malaria, which was attended by delegates from Luzon and Mindanao was aimed at raising the capacity of the revolutionary movement and army to combat and eradicate malaria.

Malaria is one of the deadliest diseases in the country today. Data from the Department of Health (DOH) reveal that malaria continues to ravage 61 of the country's 79 provinces. The number of people who contract the disease continues to grow annually in 19 provinces in Luzon and Mindanao. There have been over a thousand people ravaged by malaria in provinces like Palawan, Mindoro Occidental and Agusan del Sur where the disease is endemic.

Malaria is also one of the diseases that victimize many New People's Army (NPA) Red fighters, especially in mountainous provinces where many forests have been cleared (resulting in the dislocation of mosquitoes), and where economic conditions are backward and gov-

ernment support for the people's health, medication and other services is sorely lacking.

Over 700 Red fighters contracted malaria from 2001-2005 in one region in Mindanao. In the past five years, three regions in Luzon and three regions in Mindanao experienced malaria epidemics that victimized the majority of a platoon or company.

Diagnosis and treatment.

The conference centered on the problem of diagnosis and giving adequate medical treatment in areas where malaria is widespread. In an earlier medical conference to combat malaria, guidelines were agreed upon for medical officials to follow in diagnosing and treating this illness. The conference assessed the problems faced in implementing these guidelines.

One is correct identification of the type of malaria a patient has. In the Philippines, majority of those afflicted become ill after being infected by either the *Plasmodium falciparum* parasite (which causes 84% of malaria cases) or the *Plasmodium vivax* parasite (which causes 14% of malarial cases). In some cases, victims are infected by both types of parasites. There is a third kind of malaria parasite—the *Plasmodium malariae*—which causes less than 1% of malaria cases in the country. It is found in certain areas of Davao Oriental.

Infection by *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* calls for different kinds of treatment. If medics fail to correctly identify which parasite has caused malaria in a patient, the latter will not receive the appropriate treatment. The parasite may be correctly identified through the microscopic examination of blood smears from patients.

There are also instances where inappropriate treatment is given even if the parasite has been correctly identified. There are patients

Anti-malaria program

The conference came up with a malaria control program aimed at raising awareness among the revolutionary forces and the people about the disease to help them avoid it and to make sure that those afflicted receive the right treatment. The components of the program are as follows:

- ▶ Conducting extensive health education among the revolutionary forces and the masses in areas where malaria is endemic
- ▶ Launching a mass movement in the form of a health campaign to carry out preventive measures such as the large-scale planting of neem trees
- ▶ Encouraging the use of personal protection such as mosquito nets soaked in insecticide or other insect exterminators or repellants
- ▶ Conducting prompt diagnosis of positive cases by actively monitoring symptoms among the ranks of the NPA and the masses in areas where malaria is endemic
- ▶ Applying prompt, adequate and proper treatment
- ▶ Holding prompt consultations with patients with complications in clinics or hospitals
- ▶ Training medics and health committees in the barrios

who do not take the complete dose because the negative side effects of particular medicines, such as nausea, were not adequately explained to them.

In the barrios, the reactionary government's medical officers still follow antiquated guidelines. For instance, they still prescribe Chloroquine only for *P. falciparum* instead of recommending a combination of Chloroquine and Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine. There are also areas in the country where ordinary medicines for malaria no longer work.

In the face of these problems, the conference saw the importance of rapidly propagating basic information on malaria, especially in areas where incidence is high. It likewise noted the continuing inadequacy of preventive measures.

Initial victories. The conference lauded the fruitful and suc-

cessful anti-malaria campaign within the NPA and among the people in Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon in the past two years. Malaria cases in these areas diminished significantly as a result of the NPA and the mass organizations' prompt and active attention. With the capacity of mass organizations to attend to malaria patients raised, deaths and complications were also avoided.

Meanwhile, in Southern and North-East Mindanao, NPA units responded promptly and controlled the spread of malaria among their ranks and in nearby barrios. They also campaigned among the masses to spray insecticide, use mosquito nets and plant neem trees in breeding grounds of mosquitoes that may be malaria carriers. The neem tree's sap is an effective insecticide, and the scent of its leaves repels mosquitos. AB

Radyo "Ang Bayan" in Samar

Sunday is usually regarded as a day of rest. But instead of cock-fighting, drinking, going out on trips or visiting town, in many barrios where guerrilla zones and bases are located in Samar, it has become the pastime of the barriofolk to attend education meetings, mass meetings and other meaningful revolutionary political, educational and cultural activities.

In these mass activities was born "Radyo *Ang Bayan*"—the newspaper *Ang Bayan* in the form of a taped radio program.

"Radyo *Ang Bayan*" came into being from the efforts of the revolutionary forces in Samar to propagate the contents of the Party's newspaper in many interior barrios where peasants suffer from low literacy levels, and where printed copies of *Ang Bayan* are either lacking or arrive

late.

Observing that the barriofolk were avid radio listeners, especially since there were hardly any bourgeois newspapers in the hinterland villages, the comrades thought of reading *AB*, recording it on audio tape and conducting meetings to listen to and discuss its contents. The comrades used a simple battery-operated audio cassette recorder for the taping.

The activity was begun in May

2004 and has been repeated several times since then. Once a copy of *Ang Bayan* arrives in their area, the comrades immediately prepare to tape "Radyo *Ang Bayan*."

In one barrio, each member of an organization contributed one peso to buy batteries. Using a loudspeaker, the taped articles and news were broadcast to the entire barrio, with the villagers assembled in one place to listen. They listened intently to articles and news published in *AB* interspersed with revolutionary songs.

Sometimes, the listening sessions are done in the sitio center or in the barangay hall or else in the village chapel. With most of

the barriofolk listening, local militia act as lookouts in strategic places to alert the barrio on the entry of military or other unreliable elements.

The revolutionary masses love to listen to and closely follow the Party's analysis and calls on the latest and most important events and on political, economic and other issues both local and international, as well as news on developments in various areas of revolutionary work in different parts of the country, espe-



cially when there are victorious tactical offensives.

After the listening session, cultural performances and free-wheeling discussions about issues that they wish or need to discuss are conducted. And if there is a need for action, this is likewise discussed. For instance, a listening meeting was transformed into a meeting to prepare for impending militarization and fascism in the area. This, after the villagers listened to an article on militarization.

In assessing the listening sessions, the barriofolk have suggested the creation of a radio drama about their problems and revolutionary struggle that could be carried even by this type of guerrilla "radio." It would be so different from what they usually hear over commercial radio stations.

The release of "*Radyo Ang Bayan*" is a recognition that radio or audio is an excellent medium for revolutionary propaganda especially in areas where many people still have difficulty reading, and printed copies of *AB* are few and far between. With "*Radyo Ang Bayan*," the revolutionary movement has shown its determination to reach out to the broad masses and arouse and mobilize them along the revolutionary path.

Following this excellent initiative of comrades in Samar, *AB* has begun its regular release of taped readings of *Ang Bayan's* Waray edition. Beginning with the November 7 issue, the taped versions have been posted at the Philippine revolution (www.philippinerevolution.org) website so comrades in Eastern Visayas could more readily access it and so tens of thousands of *AB's* regular audience could listen to it.

AB



A united front against the Nepalese monarchy

A broad united front has been forged between the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and the country's six main parliamentary parties on November 17 in a cooperative effort to end the monarchial system under King Gyanendra.

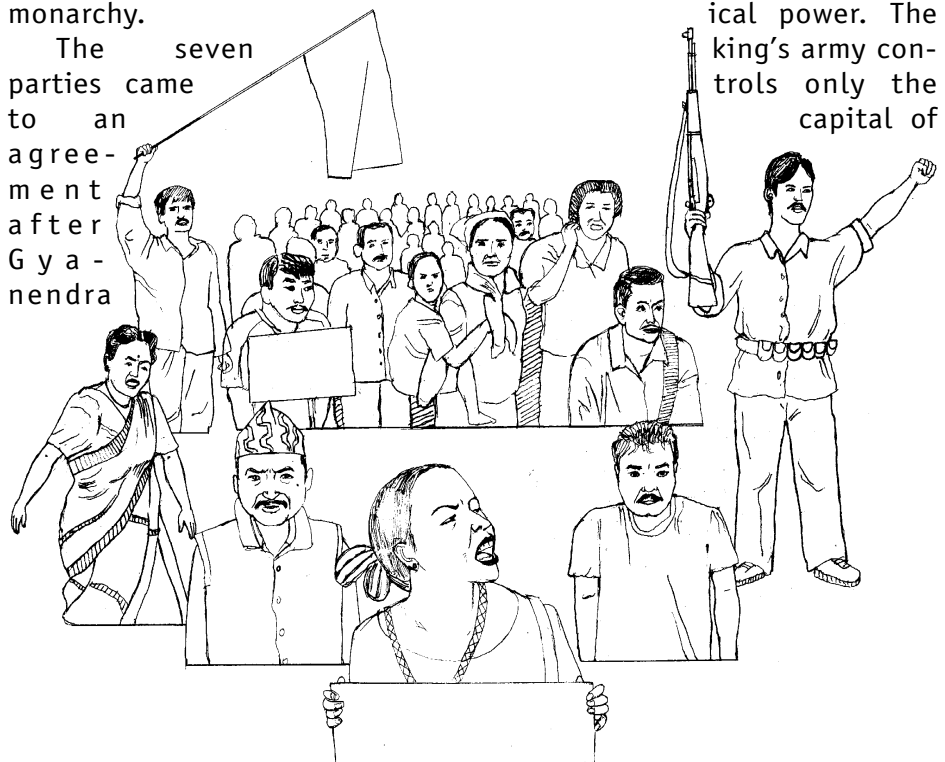
A secret meeting was held between the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and the major parliamentary parties to discuss the formation of a united front against the king and plans for ending the civil war to achieve democracy and peace in Nepal. Leading the talks were CPN(M) chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal (better known as Comrade Prachanda), and Girija Prasad Koirala, former prime minister of Nepal and president of the Nepal Congress Party, the country's largest party. They framed Twelve Points of Understanding as the basis of their common struggle against the absolute monarchy.

The seven parties came to an agreement after Gyanendra

launched a coup d'état, dissolved parliament and imposed martial law in the country in February 2005. The king claimed that these measures were needed to crush the people's war. The broad masses of the people and the parliamentary parties in Nepal as well as the world community strongly condemned the coup d'état and martial law and the attendant violations of human rights in the country.

Far from being quelled by the absolute monarchy's militarization, the protracted people's war has advanced even more rapidly. Large parts of the countryside are now under Red political power. The

king's army controls only the capital of





Kathmandu. Under the leadership of the CPN(M), even Kathmandu has been repeatedly paralyzed by *bandhs* (general strikes). The CPN(M) estimates that with the military strength the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has achieved since it waged people's war in Nepal in 1996, it is now at par with the monarchy's army. All that is required is the broad support of the parliamentary parties and the urban-based middle

forces to bring a complete end to monarchical rule.

Previously, the CPN(M) was too "Left" in relating to the parliamentary parties. The CPN(M) one-sidedly regarded them as opportunists and refused to maintain relations with them. On the eve of the continuing march of the CPN(M) to victory, the party realized that that was an incorrect policy. It has rectified this sectarianism and has actively

taken steps to unite with the parliamentary parties, win over all positive forces, and isolate the absolute monarchy completely.

The king's coup d'état objectively served as an excellent condition for reinvigorating relations between the CPN(M) and the parliamentary parties. To fur-

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Temporary victory in the anti-WTO struggle

The Group of 90 composed of poor countries like the Philippines achieved a partial and temporary victory in its struggle against the World Trade Organization's (WTO) pro-imperialist policies. The gains were achieved in the recently concluded WTO ministerial conference held in Hongkong from December 11 to 18. Rep. Teddy Casiño of Bayan Muna party said the poor countries face another big battle in the next WTO meeting in April 2006.

Casiño said that on the overall, the poor countries gained time when the WTO postponed the implementation of a number of policies that were detrimental to their interests, such as "Annex C" of the General Agreement on Trade and Services.

GATS Annex C aims to accelerate the liberalization of the agricultural service sector—something the imperialists are sure to exploit. Congressional party-list representatives from the country had a major influence on the positions the Philippine government delegation took and the way the latter handled these issues. Casiño and Anakpawis party Rep. Rafael Mariano served as official advisers to the government delegation to the WTO. Reps. Satur Ocampo, Liza Maza and Crispin Beltran, on the other hand, served as observers. These congress people likewise led a signature campaign among other country representatives to unite on a common position against GATS Annex C.

Protest actions hounded the WTO's sixth

ministerial meeting from beginning to end. About 10,000 members of 400 anti-"globalization" organizations from various countries that were affiliated with two major anti-WTO coalitions—the International League of Peoples' Struggle (ILPS) and The World is Not for Sale—joined the protests. Highlighting the protest actions was the participation of a big number of Filipino domestic helpers in Hongkong. About a thousand domestic helpers affiliated with the United Filipinos in Hongkong joined the ILPS-organized protest rally on December 17.

The struggles waged by impoverished countries and peoples against imperialist plunder and war were a high point in the six-day protest against the WTO. Demonstrators relentlessly exposed and assailed the WTO as an instrument of imperialist plunder.

The Forum on Trade and War pointed out on December 14 that trade during the era of imperialism meant inter-imperialist wars and imperialist collaboration to dominate and plunder backward countries like the Philippines. The Forum, which was endorsed by ILPS, Resist! (Resist Imperialist Plunder and War Network) and BAYAN called for a broad anti-imperialist united front to sustain the anti-imperialist struggle.

Participating organizations and activists likewise shared with each other their views, experiences, tactics and forms of organization and struggle.

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ther isolate the king and make conditions even more excellent for the formation of a broad front, the CPN(M) declared a unilateral ceasefire in September even though the king ignored it. On December 1, the CPN(M) declared a one-month extension of the ceasefire.

The seven parties agreed that the autocratic monarchy was the principal obstacle to the loftiest aspirations of all Nepalis for democracy, peace, prosperity, social progress, freedom and sovereignty. There can be no progress and prosperity in Nepal if no peace and democracy can be established by bringing an end to the autocratic monarchy, they said. They plan to direct all their forces against the autocratic monarchy to create a surge of democratic protests across Nepal until Gyanendra's rule is eventually brought to an end.

With the cooperation of these parties, the largest demonstration against the king since the coup d'état in February was launched on December 2. On December 11, the first of even bigger joint protest actions began.

Even as they have forged an agreement with the other parties, the Nepali revolutionaries maintain their independence and initiative to establish a democratic republic. This united front, says Prachanda, "is in itself a preliminary coalition between the republicanism of the masses and the political parties aspiring for peace... if all sides move forward... this understanding can rise to a long-term front."

The seven parties have spurned the king's offer to call for local elections in February 2006 and parliamentary elections in 2007, which according to them are mere shams. Instead, they agreed to hold genuine elections after the king is overthrown and to have the United Nations supervise these elections. The CPN(M) has also agreed to place the PLA under the temporary supervision of the United Nations or to have some other form of international supervision during the elections.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan welcomed the move of the Nepali revolutionaries and parliamentary parties, saying he was "ready to assist in any manner that would help bring about a peaceful solution to the conflict."

AB

PARC junks SDO in Hacienda Luisita

THE Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) junked the stock distribution option (SDO) scheme of Hacienda Luisita Inc. in a resolution dated December 20. The resolution calls for the government to purchase 4,915 hectares of land under Hacienda Luisita and subject it to land reform. The PARC is the agency of the reactionary government that decides on agrarian cases.

The resolution reverses a previous PARC decision approving the SDO scheme. Peasants strongly opposed the scheme, saying that it was a deceptive way by which landlords could retain control over their vast landholdings by exchanging corporate shares of stock for land.

The PARC decision was born out of militant struggle for genuine land reform. It is but an initial victory, however. The peasants have a long way to go before genuine land reform could be achieved, especially since the Cojuangco family has filed an appeal and is pushing for exemption.

Under the SDO, the HLI distributed a few shares of stocks to each farm worker of Central Azucarera de Tarlac. HLI claimed that the value of the stocks distributed was equal to the value of the land that would have been parcelled out to each farm worker. Contrary to HLI-CAT's claims, however, the farm workers never received any of the benefits promised under the SDO. Instead, the SDO has thrown the farm workers deeper into poverty and has killed in them any hope of ever having land to till.

The struggle against the SDO peaked when over 5,000 members of the United Luisita Workers Union (ULWU) and the 700 members of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union (CATLU) struck in November 2004 to oppose systematic harassment and mass layoffs.

Soldiers of the Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) violently dispersed the strikers, killing seven of them and injuring more than a hundred others. Military violence continued against Hacienda Luisita's mill and farm workers. The most recent incident involved the assassination of CATLU chairperson Ricardo Ramos in November.

Four activists murdered in Central Luzon

THE regime's campaign of killing and other human rights violations continues without letup. Four members of progressive organizations were slain in Central Luzon in the latter half of December.

Bayan Muna coordinator Jessie Alcantara was shot and killed at around 1:20 pm on December 16 in San Ildefonso, Bulacan. Alcantara was also the leader of a local tricycle drivers' association. Soldiers had been looking for Alcantara at his house two weeks before the killing. He was shot while driving his tricycle.

At around 5:10 that same afternoon, two motorcycle-riding gunmen shot Barangay Captain Victorina Gomez and Barangay

Councilor Romeo Atienza of Parian, Mexico, Pampanga. Their companion, Barangay Councilor Reynaldo Macabili survived the ambush. All three were members of the Aguman da reng Maglalautang Capampangan and Bayan Muna. They had just come from a barrio meeting called by the Philippine Army 69th IB where they demanding the pullout of soldiers stationed in their barangay hall.

Two days before this, Alfredo Manaol, Jr., 48, was murdered inside his own home in Barangay Balaong, San Miguel, Bulacan. Manaol was a member of the Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid sa Bulacan (AMB) and the son of Alfredo, Sr., AMB's chairperson.

CA confirms Palparan promotion

THE Commission on Appointments (CA) confirmed the promotion of Gen. Jovito Palparan as major general in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) despite widespread opposition from the people and progressive members of congress. The CA ignored the numerous cases of grave violations of human rights slapped against Palparan.

Palparan regarded the confirmation of his promotion as a license to kill even more activists and unleash more brutality against the people. He said, "I will step this up. We will pulverize them." Shortly after his promotion, Palparan immediately deployed more soldiers to barrios in Central Luzon suspected of being part of the NPA's area of operations.

Arroyo rushes Anti-Terrorism Bill

TENSIONS are expected to flare up between the US-Arroyo regime and the Filipino people in the face of Malacañang's insistence on pushing the enactment of the Anti-Terrorism Bill (ATB). Arroyo's loyal followers in the lower house of Congress saw to the swift passage of House Bill 4839 or the Anti-Terrorism Bill in two readings of the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Foreign Affairs last December 15. The ATB is expected to be ratified in the committees' subsequent meeting in January.

The Anti-Terrorism Bill lays down a sweeping definition of "terrorism" and grants the state greater unrestrained powers. Arroyo plans to use these powers as instruments that would approximate martial law in curtailing the people's civil liberties and suppressing those who oppose her rule.

US President George W. Bush continues to press puppet governments to frame anti-terrorist laws to justify the US' superpower rule worldwide. This, despite growing opposition from Americans and the world's peoples to the US' intransigence in pushing the "war against terrorism." Arroyo is rushing the ratification of the ATB despite widespread opposition from the Filipino people and despite the US government's failure to coerce some Asian countries into legislating similar measures. By pushing the ATB, Arroyo wants to "please" her master Bush.

Meanwhile, widespread opposition from Filipinos has pushed the Senate to side with the people against the ATB. According to Sen. Joker Arroyo, one of the ATB's strongest critics, the Philippines must not allow itself to be at the US' beck and call.